

# The Cogswell Courier

Michael

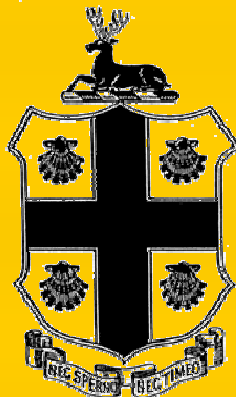


Cogswell

And the Louis Armstrong Archives

*“I neither despise nor fear”*

*April 2013*





## Cogswell Courier

April 2013,

Volume 24, Issue 1

The mission of the Cogswell Family Association is to perpetuate the memory, history and genealogy of the Cogswell family with particular emphasis on descendants of John and Elizabeth Cogswell who arrived in America in 1635. This mission is accomplished by collecting, preserving, recording and publishing family documentation, memorabilia and memorials, as well as promoting friendship, understanding, mutual assistance and collaborative research across the membership.

Published by the Cogswell Family Association

Three times a year:

April, August & December

Deadlines for each issue:

First day of the month previous to issue

Send queries, news, stories, pictures, suggestions to:

Malcolm Cogswell, Editor

66 North Main St., Sutton, QC, J0E 2K0 Canada

E-mail address: [malcolmcogswell@hotmail.com](mailto:malcolmcogswell@hotmail.com)

Telephone (450) 538-0295

Membership information

(on a calendar basis from January to December)

Write to:

Edward R. Cogswell

214 140th St NW, Tulalip, WA 98271-8105

E-mail address: [ercogswell@wavecable.com](mailto:ercogswell@wavecable.com)

Send genealogical information or enquiries to:

Historian: Eloise ("Elli") Gassert

5902 618 Fourth Avenue, Lady Lake, FL 32159

E-mail: [memaw24427@aol.com](mailto:memaw24427@aol.com)

Historical Database keeper: Roger Bohn

28 Ross St., Batavia NY 14020 e-mail: [rbohn49@gmail.com](mailto:rbohn49@gmail.com)

### Web Sites

Cogswell Family Association: <http://www.cogswell.org>

Cogswell Courier Blog: <http://cogswellcourierblog.wordpress.com/>

CFA Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=113661535340209&v=info](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=113661535340209&v=info)



## Michael Cogswell and the Louis Armstrong Museum



When Michael Cogswell came to Queens College in 1991 to create the Louis Armstrong Archives, he found a treasure trove of American jazz history: 72 cartons of memorabilia, including 5,000 photographs, 85 scrapbooks, 650 home recordings and five gold-plated trumpets.

It took Cogswell three years to sort through it all before making it available to scholars, music writers and television producers looking for material on the jazz legend.

Cogswell's immersion in all things Armstrong has paid dividends for musicologists and jazz lovers around the world. Armstrong's widow, Lucille, willed the Armstrong home to the city of New York, which then entered into a lease agreement with Queens College to develop the Louis

Armstrong House Museum. After a \$2 million renovation, it opened in 2003, and is open six days a week.

That space, however, has grown cramped as the public flocked to the modest frame house at 34-56 107th Street in Corona, Queens, that Armstrong called home for decades.

"We hosted receptions in the basement of the house, but it could only hold up to 40 people," says Cogswell. "We stopped doing them because more people would show up than we could accommodate."

Cogswell is now preparing for construction of the museum's Visitors Center, a \$15 million project across the street from the Armstrong House Museum. The new building will include a performance space for lectures, concerts and film screenings; multi-media exhibits; a museum store and space for the Armstrong archives, currently housed in Rosenthal Library.

"I've had the privilege of working here for 18 years, and I haven't hit bottom yet," says Cogswell. "Louis Armstrong is endlessly interesting. He was a trumpet player, vocalist, actor and author. But for all these accomplishments, what inspires me is Louis Armstrong, the person. He was a beautiful guy. He was humble. He was generous. He was a genius."

Book everyone should read:  
Satchmo: My Life in New Orleans, by Louis Armstrong

Surprising fact: Before entering graduate school, Cogswell spent twelve years as a professional musician, playing the saxophone, flute and clarinet.

Michael Cogswell (Music '83) wasn't always a devoted Louis Armstrong fan. Like most jazz musicians, he knew and respected the work of the legendary trumpet master. But when the ad crossed his desk for a job at Queens College in New York



City to arrange, catalog and preserve the substantial body of Armstrong's personal papers, home recordings, scrapbooks and photographs, he knew it was his dream job.

As curator of the Louis Armstrong Collection of the Louis Armstrong House & Archives since 1991, Cogswell has become not only an authority on the work of the famous musician, singer, bandleader and entertainer, but a great admirer of the humble and generous man behind the music.

"There's no enthusiast like a convert," Cogswell said.

Cogswell is now sharing his enthusiasm with the public as Director of the Louis Armstrong House Museum, which opened its doors October 15<sup>th</sup>.

The mission of the Louis Armstrong House Museum is to:

- Operate the Louis Armstrong House, a National Historic Landmark and a New York City landmark, as a historic house museum;
- Collect, arrange, preserve, catalog and make available to the public materials relating to the life and career of Louis Armstrong;
- Serve as a reference source for information about Louis Armstrong;
- Present public programs, such as concerts and lectures, that preserve and promote the cultural legacy of Louis Armstrong.



In 1943, Louis and his wife Lucille bought this simple frame house — Cogswell called it “a little Archie Bunker house” — on a tiny side street in the working class neighborhood of Corona in Queens. The couple lived in the house, now an historic landmark, until their deaths (Louis in 1971, Lucille in 1983). The House property is now owned by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and administered by Queens College through a long-term license agreement.

“That’s a remarkable part of the story,” Cogswell said, “because, in 1943, Louis was already a superstar. He could have lived on a big estate on

the north shore of Long Island with a swimming pool in the shape of a trumpet.”

Armstrong was, as Cogswell puts it, “a delightfully eccentric packrat.” So, when historians first went through the house, they unearthed a treasure trove of gems. They found 5,000 photographs, including candid photos of the performer playing with neighborhood kids and snapshots of him posing with his band in front of their bus in the 1930s. They also discovered 650 home-recorded reel-to-reel tapes, more than 200 of which are spoken-word recordings of Armstrong and the boys backstage swapping dirty jokes, or Armstrong and Lucille telling stories as they entertained in their home. There were 120 gold records, awards and plaques; five gold-plated trumpets; 85 scrapbooks and hundreds of pages of an unpublished autobiographic manuscript in which Armstrong reminisces about his childhood in New Orleans.

“It’s an intensely personal look into Louis’s life,” Cogswell said.

Cogswell documents much of this intimate side of the man known affectionately as Satchmo in his new book, “Louis Armstrong: The Offstage Story of Satchmo,” published October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2003, by Collectors Press, and released just in time for the museum’s ribbon cutting ceremony.

Cogswell grew up in Fairfax County, Va., where he played saxophone in several bands. After high school, he headed off to U. Va. in 1971, but continued performing. Three

semesters in, though, it became clear that music was what was most important to him, so he left school, moved to Boston, and began to work full-time as a professional musician.

Eight or nine years later, Cogswell decided he was tired of driving around in a van with a bunch of guys playing in bars every night. He returned to U. Va., earned a bachelor's degree in music, then discovered another love: library work and archiving.

After graduating, he worked in the University's music library for three years, then moved to Denton, Texas, where he worked in the music library at the University of North Texas and earned a master of music degree in musicology with a concentration in jazz studies.

Now, Cogswell has been immersed in Louis Armstrong for 13 years, combining his love of music with his passion for preserving the history of this legendary jazz figure.

"I'm totally nuts about Louis, and I haven't hit bottom yet," he said.

Major funding for the Louis Armstrong House Museum is provided by the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation. Additional funding is provided by Queens College; the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS); Bloomberg LP; the New York State Council on the Arts; the National Trust for Historic Preservation; the Rudin Family Foundation; the Estates of Jane and Leslie Katz and members and donors from all over the world. Support is also provided by public funds from the Office of Queens Borough President Helen Marshall; the Office of City Council member Julissa Ferreras; the Office of State Senator José Peralta; the Office of State Assemblyman Francisco Moya, the Office of State Assemblyman Jeffrion L. Aubry; the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; the New York State Education Department and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.



*The Gift of Armstrong's Legacy: Michael Cogswell (far left) gathers with jazz great Jon Faddis (second from left) and college and community officials on the*

steps of Louis Armstrong's Corona residence at the October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2003, ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the house as a museum.

Queensborough President Helen Marshall (in pink jacket) helped cut the ribbon. At far right is Queens College President James L. Muyskens.

Right: January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Michael Cogswell (back row, third from right) attends a panel (David Ostwald, Dan Morgenstern and George Avakian) on Louis Armstrong.



## Sir John de Coggeshall



Sir John de Coggeshall, whose arms (*Argent a cross between four escallops sable*) the Cogswell family holds, held the Coggeshall Manor on behalf of the Abbots of Westminster and of Coggeshall, managing it for the monks in Essex between 1319 and 1361. He was born in 1302 in Essex, England, the son of Sir John de Coggeshall and Sara le Brun. He went with a party on the king's service to the papal court at Avignon in 1320. He was summoned to perform military service against the Scots in 1322. He served Edward II militarily between 1323 and 1330. He married Margaret de Stanton, daughter of Humphrey de Stanton, before 1328. He held important offices like those of sheriff and escheator, knight of the shire in parliament, justice and on numerous local commissions between 1330 and 1361 in Essex. John de Coggeshall's wealth provided the foundation for his involvement in politics, war and Essex affairs.

John embarked on his career in Essex affairs when he was in his early thirties.

He served in parliament as one of the two knights of the shire for Essex between 1334 and 1336. He served again in parliament as knight of the shire for Essex in 1339. He served a third time in parliament as knight of the shire for Essex in 1343.

He was called upon to conscript two hundred archers in Essex for the Scottish war in 1335.

He was knighted by Edward the Black Prince in 1337.

He was first appointed sheriff, serving five years, between November, 1334 and 1338, including High Sheriff of Essex and Hertfordshire between 1336 and 1349. He was again appointed sheriff, serving between May, 1340 and January, 1341, in Essex. He was appointed sheriff yet again, serving his third time between November, 1343 and May, 1348, in Essex. He was appointed sheriff yet again, an unprecedented appointment, as such long tenures of the office were unusual and contrary to the statute of 1340 which stipulated that the sheriff was to hold the office for a year only, and he served his fourth term between November, 1352 and November, 1354 in Essex. He also served as High Sheriff of Essex and Hertfordshire between 1353 and 1356. The office of sheriff was one of power and prestige. As sheriff, John presided over the county court, and received and carried out the orders of the Crown on a wide variety of matters. After a visitation by royal justices, he was responsible for carrying out their sentences and making a return of fines and chattels of felons and fugitives to the Crown. As escheator, he was responsible for the lands of tenants-in-chief of the Crown, which came into the king's hands by reason of minorities, failure of heirs or forfeiture. He took the estates in the King's hands, and accounted for the revenues until ordered to hand them over to the heir or to someone else.

He served as justice of the peace, on a commission especially notable in that it allowed the justices to determine as well as hear cases of felony and trespass in 1351.

He was involved with the defense of the English coastline during Edward III's Crecy and Calais campaign in 1346/47. The provision of food supplies was also vital to the war effort. According to the Calendar of Fine Rolls, 1347-56, John, in 1355, was one of those called upon by the Crown to gather two hundred pigs, sixty weys of cheese, forty carcasses of beef, etc., which were to be sent to Calais to feed the soldiers in 1355. He served as justice of the peace a second time in 1356. He served a fourth time in parliament as knight of the shire for Essex in 1358. He died in June, 1361, at age 59 years. He died, possibly, from the Plague brought about in the second great outbreak of the Black Death. His estate was probated on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1361. The Inquest Post Mortem (similar to our probate inventory) showed that Sir John held the manors of Sutton, Beneflete, Coldham, Coggeshall, Samhill, Hokewell, Ailsford, Fratyng and Thoriton, Pagesham and Roghir, in addition to lands in the towns of Bokkyngg (Bocking) and Feryngg (Feering), Co. Essex, all of which went to his eldest son. The estates of the Coggeshall family were in great part accumulated by Ralph de Coggeshall, John's grandfather, who died in 1305. Children of Sir John de Coggeshall and Margaret de Stanton were John de Coggeshall b. c. 1328, d. 1346, Elizabeth de Coggeshall b. c. 1330, *Sir* Henry de Coggeshall b. c. 1333, d. 1375 and Thomas de Coggeshall b. c. 1335.

John's oldest son, also named John, fought in Edward III's retinue at the Battle of Crecy in 1346, and was killed at the subsequent siege of Calais. His second son, Henry, married Joan, daughter of William de Welle. His third son, Thomas, served Thomas of Woodstock, the youngest son of Edward III, and achieved prominence in Co. Essex during the reign of Richard II. John's daughter, Elizabeth, married John Bouchier.

## *Cogswell Family Reunion, Cleveland, 2013*

The Cogswell Family Association will hold a reunion in Cleveland, Ohio, June 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013. The reunion will be centered at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in downtown Cleveland. Room rates there at the CFA rate are \$129.00 per night plus \$20.96 in taxes. (Taxes could change.) Parking is additional at \$8.00 per day.

The schedule (subject to change) is as follows:

Thursday: Hospitality meeting – 2:00pm-6:00pm

Friday: sightseeing; Banquet at 6:00pm – Speaker: Ethel Horvath

Saturday Morning: Brunch Board Meeting at 10:00am; sightseeing

Saturday: tours of Cogswell Hall, time to be determined; Ice Cream Social at 7:00pm

Sunday morning: continue sightseeing before departure

How to register for your rooms:

### **GUEST ROOM RESERVATIONS**

**Individual reservations** – Each individual guest must make his or her own reservation by calling 216-241-5100. The final cut off for reservations will be **May 21, 2013**. They must identify themselves as members of **CFA - Cogswell Family Association**. The hotel will provide the group a link to our website that will allow guests to make their reservations. All reservations must be guaranteed and accompanied by a first night room deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card. The hotel will continue to accept reservations from attendees after this date based on room and rate availability.

### **CHECK IN**

Check in time is 3:00pm and check out time is 12:00 noon. The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Cleveland Downtown - Lakeside cannot guarantee check in prior to 3:00pm.

Next, register for the banquet through the CFA direct.

### **Sightseeing suggestions**

(We need to get an idea of what those signing up want to do. We will get event captains to each event.)

- Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, 10:00am to 5:30pm. Price: adults \$22.00, seniors 65 and over \$17.00
- Football Hall of Fame, 9:00am to 8:00pm Price: adults \$22.00, seniors 62 and over \$18.00
- Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 10:00am to 5:00pm Price: adults \$12.00, seniors \$10.00
- Crawford Auto Aviation Museum, 10:00am to 5:00pm. Adults \$7.50, seniors \$6.50, parking \$5.00
- Cleveland Museum of Art, Saturday 10:00am to 5:00pm free admission
- Cleveland USS Cod Submarine, 10:00am to 5:00pm. Adults \$10.00, seniors \$9.00
- International Women's Air and Space Museum, 8:00am to 8:00pm. Free admission
- Cleveland Botanical Gardens, 10:00am to 5:00pm Price: adults \$9.50
- Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, 10:00am to 5:00pm Price: adults \$12.25
- Greater Cleveland Aquarium, 10:00am to 5:00pm Price: adults \$19.95, seniors 60+ \$17.75
- Great Lakes Science Center, NASA Glenn Visitor Center and Steamship William G. Mather, 10:00am to 5:00pm. Price for all three: adults \$23.00

There are also a number of theatres which may or may not have shows at times appropriate for us. These include the Cleveland Orchestra at Severance Hall, Cleveland Opera, the Cleveland Play House, Playhouse Square Center, the Allen Theater, the Porthouse Theater and the Liminis Theater.

Originally suggested was a Cleveland Indians versus Minnesota Twins baseball game Saturday 7:15pm or Sunday at 1:05pm. Price under \$30.00 However, the first conflicts with our visit to Cogswell Hall, and we would have to check out before the second ended – you could see it by staying an extra night.

## *Vanessa Cogswell Receives Academic Advising Award*

Academic Services Coordinator Vanessa Cogswell was recently honored with the prestigious Judy Boyte Innovative Academic Advising Award by the Academic Advising Council at the University of Central Florida for her unique approach to helping students. Since the Fall 2011 term, Cogswell has been helping at-risk, probationary and readmitted students improve their grades through her Peer Outreach Mentoring Program (POMP) at UCF's Rosen College of Hospitality Management in Orlando, Florida, part of the University of Central Florida.

Over the past year, POMP has averaged a 95% success rate, and even earned national praise during the National Academic Advising Association's 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.

Cogswell won the Judy Boyte award due to the success of her program through her unique coaching framework.

"In sports, a coach brings a team of people together to accomplish a common goal," said Cogswell. "I took this concept and applied it to the Peer Outreach Mentoring Program. By building camaraderie among the students and empowering them to contribute to the group, they are working as a team to successfully reach their goal."

POMP pairs struggling students with peer mentors to deliver presentations on important academic and social topics, such as test-taking strategies and stress management tips, during the program's biweekly meetings. The goal of this effort is to not only gain organizational and scholarly advice, but the camaraderie between the mentors and mentees creates a support system.

"POMP is a support system for students who need a little extra encouragement, direction or advice," said Cogswell. "Our peer mentors must not only be able to help their mentees academically, but must also be able to empathize with them. That balance offers the support that our members need to succeed."

Cogswell has also integrated alumni mentors and guest speakers, who engage and motivate both the mentees and mentors, into her program.

"The innovative efforts by Ms. Cogswell motivate and empower all of her POMP members," said Director of Student Services Lori Ashby, who nominated Cogswell for the Judy Boyte Award. "She is truly an outstanding academic advisor who has had an impact on students' success."

The Judy Boyte Award celebrates outstanding innovation in academic advising. The award is named in honor of Judy Boyte, the first professional academic advisor at UCF, who established the first academic advising office, advising policies, and academic standards.



Vanessa with a student assisting in organizing and coordinating special events, and provided assistance to increase graduation/retention rates.



Vanessa joined Rosen College in July, 2011, and her responsibilities include planning, developing, and implementing assessment tools to increase retention rates.

Prior to joining Rosen College, Ms. Cogswell was the Head Coach at Bethune-Cookman University (BCU) from 2004-2011, where she directed their Division I Volleyball Program leading the team to the Conference Tournament all 7 seasons, with 3 of those seasons including advancement to the semi-finals of the Conference Championships making school history.

Ms. Cogswell holds a Master of Science in Education from Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC), a Bachelor of Arts from BCU and an Associate of Arts from Brevard Community College. At SIUC, she was awarded a teaching assistantship and interned as an academic advisor for the Athletic Department,



# Cogswells in Sports

## Brandon Cogswell – Triathlete

Brandon Russell Cogswell was born in Marietta, Ohio, in 1980, the son of Russ Cogswell and grandson of Harry Cogswell. His childhood was in Santa Fe, New Mexico, but he moved back to Marietta in 1991. He attended Ohio State University, where he earned his B.A. in Agricultural Business and Applied Economics in 2001. He then went to Capital University School of Law, earning a J.D. in 2006. During his studies, he worked as a legal research intern at BMW Financial Services NA, LLC, a clinic intern at Capital University Law School Legal Clinic and as a judicial extern at Chambers of Judge John Bessey. He is now an attorney, represents not-for-profit organizations, businesses and individuals in shareholder disputes, and counsels businesses on corporate governance issues. He also practices felony and misdemeanor criminal defense litigation throughout Ohio.

He started his career as associate attorney at Haywood Law Offices, moved to become an associate at Feinstein Legal Services, and briefly had his own firm – Cogswell Law Office. He is presently an attorney at Burton Law LLC, and lives in Columbus, Ohio.

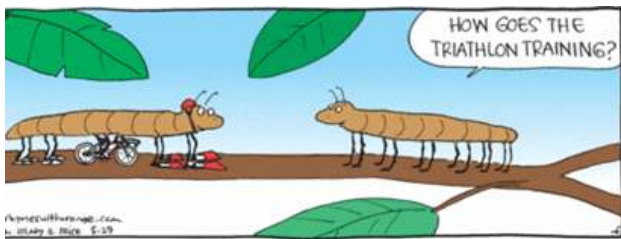


He is also a triathlete. On June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011, he entered Wendy's Triathlon, (swim 1/2 mile, bike 17 miles, run 5k) held at Alum Creek State Park near Columbus. He finished 124<sup>th</sup>, with a swim time of 15 minutes, 39 seconds, a bike time of 50 minutes, 31 seconds and a run time of 24 minutes, 14 seconds. Two transitions took 3 minutes, 45 seconds, so his total time was 1 hour, 34 minutes and 9 seconds.

On Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011, he ran the Columbus Half Marathon in a time of 1 hour, 35 minutes, 47 seconds. He placed 377<sup>th</sup> out of 9,932 runners and 312<sup>th</sup> out of 3,736 male runners.

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, he registered for Ironman 70.3 at National Harbor. It was set to take place on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012, was cancelled in May, which peeved him a little. After the National Harbor 70.3 was cancelled, he signed up for another 70.3 Half Ironman triathlon. It took place on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012, in Augusta, Ga. He completed the 1.2 mile swim in 26 minutes and 2 seconds, the 56 mile bike ride in 2 hours, 37 minutes and 51 seconds and the 13.1 mile run in 1 hour, 56 minutes and 27 seconds for a total time of 5 hours, 7 minutes and 30 seconds.

Meanwhile, he competed in a couple of races. First was the Kinetic Sprint Triathlon, part of the Virginia Triathlon Series, where he finished in 1:31:12, 11<sup>th</sup> in his age group. He competed in the Chestertown 10 miler on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012, and finished in 1:20:22, not his best. On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, he rode a metric century (approx. 63 miles) in the Garrett County Gran Fondo at Deep Creek Lake, Maryland, completing it in 4 hours, 35 minutes. It was a challenging ride with approximately 8,000 feet of climbing. Then he entered the Jamestown Olympic distance triathlon



on July 1<sup>st</sup> (1500 meter swim, 40k bike, 10k run). Due to lightning, the swim portion was replaced with a one mile run. Brandon came in 54<sup>th</sup> in a total time of 2 hours, 2 minutes and was 5<sup>th</sup> (maybe 4<sup>th</sup>) in his age group.

For a time, he was a volunteer with the Special Olympics; however, recently his involvement has diminished.



In the Courier, April, 2005, we reported that after deployment in Iraq, Louis Cogswell did a 10-miler run.

In the Courier, August, 2005, Louis' wife, Alyssa, and infant son, Louie, were pictured.

Where is he now?

Pictured left are Capt. Louis Cogswell, his wife, Alyssa, son, Louie, 7, and daughter, Sadie, 18 months.

### *Update: Louis Cogswell*

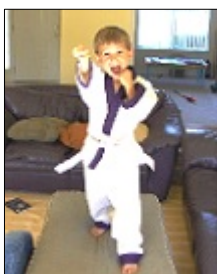
Louis Cogswell is the son of the Cogswell Family Association's Webmaster, Bruce Cogswell, now deceased. He attended Jimtown High School, Elkhart, Indiana, from 1992 to 1996, and then went to college. Two years after college, he joined the army in 2002. He and his family now live in Grovetown, Ga. He is still in the army. He took part in another ten mile race in October, 2004, finishing in 74½ minutes in 1,521<sup>st</sup> place out of 13,144 runners. In 2006 he took part in a ten kilometer race, completing it in 42 minutes, 33 seconds, to place 48<sup>th</sup> out of 244 runners. On his return to Germany, he was promoted to Sergeant. He was selected to go to OCS Officer Commissioning School, graduating May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006. He moved to Fort Gordon in Augusta, Georgia, with his family, where he became the Executive Officer of Alpha Company 63<sup>rd</sup> Expeditionary Signal Battalion. He arrived at his unit on a Monday, and by Thursday, he was the acting Commander for three months. This meant he had to do the job of two Platoon Leaders, the Executive Officer, and the Company Commander. On July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007, his unit was again deployed to Iraq for another fifteen month stay.

Military life can offer its own set of unique challenges for families, but family members say there's a way to achieve a sense of normal and keep kids well-adjusted. "Sticking to a routine is important," said Alyssa Cogswell, who learned early in her husband's army career that she needed to do some extra things to ensure her family would stay strong. "We all do dinner together. We have a basic daily routine. We try to keep it as normal as possible. Get involved."

Involvement is the key, and networking with other military families is invaluable, she said. "There are so many opportunities to take advantage of, especially when someone is deployed," she said. Alyssa's husband, Capt. Louis Cogswell, is with Company C, 442<sup>nd</sup> Signal Battalion. He finished the Captains Career course and is waiting to begin the FA-53 course. Alyssa has found other things to help keep the family together while her husband defends and protects the country such as the Army Family Team Building program, which has provided a lot of useful information. "I took Level-One classes when he was first deployed," said Alyssa.

Their seven-year-old son, Louie, was six months old when his dad deployed for the first time; he was 3 during the second deployment. The couple also has an 18-month-old daughter, Sadie.

Those first Army Family Team Building courses helped her understand the military lingo and the basics she needed to know. She discovered them to be even more valuable as she continued with them and later became an instructor. The Army Family Covenant affected her family, she said. "Since his first deployment, things have definitely changed and have been getting better. They support the family with new programs and opportunities that should be taken advantage of," she said. The Family Readiness Group has also been a source of strength for the Cogswells.



Louis said he saw the strength of the Family Readiness Group when he was deployed with the 63<sup>rd</sup> Expeditionary Signal Battalion. The FRG leaders had the information family members needed, plus they held a variety of events to get children together. That networking of both spouses and children provided an added resource to the family's resilience. Louis and Alyssa said they also try to participate in Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation events on post, and their son has participated in some of the team sports offered, including karate.

## ***Readers' Page: Corrections, Queries and More Information***

Sunday p.m., Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>.

Greetings gang! I have recently come across a thin hardback book entitled Memorial Addresses on the Life and Character of William Cogswell. It was printed by the Government Printing Office, 1897, and he served in the House of Representatives during the Fifty-fourth Congress, after serving the Union Army of the Civil War. I do not know how widespread or well known this book is, but if I should choose to donate it to the C.F.A., how do I go about it? I think it would be best to save it until it is established just how such items will be stored. I may also choose to keep it in my personal family relics. I also have a pair of handwritten letters from Asa A. Cogswell (1119 or 1122) written in 1825, after he left his family in New York, and migrated to Missouri, where he died not long after writing them. What is the interest in them?

Prescott Cogswell

### ***Coleman Cogswell competes for Wendy's Heisman***



McCool Junction senior Coleman Cogswell was one of 20 finalists for the Wendy's Heisman in Nebraska. On November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012, one male and one female were selected to represent the state in New York City on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Each finalist who made it to New York received a gold medal and \$2,000.00 awards for their high schools. Cogswell is the boy who represented Nebraska at the next level. He went on to compete for the national award that celebrates their hard work, dedication and exceptional success in athletics, academics and community leadership, for a chance to be named one of 12 national finalists. Coleman's senior year at McCool Junction is going out with a bang. Academically, Cogswell carries a 3.94 GPA. He is a four-way NSAA Academic All-Stater in cross country, basketball, track and speech. In cross country, he was a state medalist in 2011 (15<sup>th</sup>) and again in 2012 (11<sup>th</sup>), in addition to numerous in-season medalist performances. In basketball, Cogswell led his team in scoring and assists, and was a top three Mustang rebounder. In track and field, he is a standout in the distance events. School activities have included student council vice-president, Honor Society, FFA, band and speech. In the community, he's known for his work with the Big Brother/Big Sister program, York County 4-H Council, First Lutheran Church Youth Group and as a 4-H Junior Superintendent. The two winners, one female and one male, received a crystal Wendy's Heisman trophy, a gift certificate for \$500.00 and \$10,000.00 to each winner's respective high school. Coleman was not among the 12 national finalists. The eventual winners were from Ohio and Texas.



### ***Old Photo from 1935***

A. C. Cannon sent this picture of the children of Harvey Cogswell II (DJC 5609) and his wife, Mary Keller, which was taken in the summer of 1935 during their family reunion in Greenville, S. C., at the home of Frank and Hattie Cogswell on East Washington Road. From row: William Harvey Cogswell (DJC 7136) and Julia Cogswell Owen (DJC 8137). Second row: Sumter Cogswell (DJC 7137), Julius Elisha Cogswell (DJC 7139) and Francis Joseph Pelzer Cogswell. (DJC 7140)

### ***Some Information or Misinformation***

None of what follows is confirmed, and may be the result of someone's imagination only. However, some websites are reporting that Robert Cogswell (the earliest documented ancestor of most Cogswells in America) was born or baptized November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1510, the son of Richard and Alice Cogswell. The place of baptism is said to be Westbury, Wiltshire, although one website gives the place of birth as Hertford, Hertfordshire. Alice Adlam was born about 1518 or in 1521 (two sites have different dates) and married Robert Cogswell in 1539 or about 1541 in Westbury, Wiltshire. Richard Cogswell, Robert's alleged father, was said to have been born about 1480 in England, and died June 12<sup>th</sup>, 1534, in Faversham Church in the heart of rural Kent, England. One website gives Richard as an alternate possibility, the preferred name being Robert, Sr.

On one website, the information is credited to one Joseph Ford, who submitted it on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2003. (There are a lot of people with that name and no address was given.)

# Cogswells in the News

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, Democratic incumbent Oshtemo Township Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell won re-election with 57 percent of the vote, receiving 5,719 votes.

In 1860, Isabella Cogswell, one of two women who wanted to provide spinsters and widows of limited means with an option other than the poorhouse, founded Victoria Hall. Sadly, after 152 years of providing a home for senior women at 2438 Gottingen St. in Halifax, N. S., the stately, red-shingled Victorian home is closing its doors. Staff, residents and their families were told of the closing Thursday. In January, 16 of the home's 25 residents moved to Caritas Residence, a six-story continuing-care facility overlooking Bedford Basin, where many nuns who lived in the now-demolished Sisters of Charity Motherhouse in Rockingham also reside. The remaining nine residents will stay until spaces open for them in provincial nursing homes. The average age of the ladies who live at Victoria Hall is over 90.

At the Wildflower Bakery a few miles away from the newly built Boise Whole Foods Market, owner Mary Cogswell was getting ready for her company's Whole Foods Market debut. Cogswell's cookies, banana bread and donuts - which are baked donuts - will be featured in the store. Whole Foods approached Cogswell about a partnership this past summer. At first, she was nervous about the deal, but then realized it was a positive move for her business. "I thought, 'Oh my God, do I really want to do this?'"



Cogswell said, adding that lately she's been "super excited." Maryann Cogswell of Port Williams, N. S., celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> by hosting a skating party for her family and friends at the Acadia University Arena. Several of her eight grandsons were happy to squire her around the ice surface, while daughters Esther and Marjorie beamed from the sidelines. Pictured are grandsons Owen, Evan and John, daughter Esther, and Maryann.

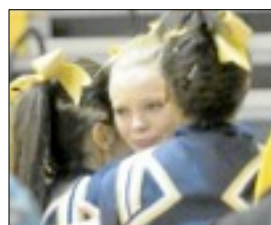
Three star quarterback Tyler (Plantation, Fla./American Heritage) was set with Arkansas since his commitment in May. When the Razorbacks went through coaching turmoil off the field and struggles on the field, Cogswell was still excited to be with Arkansas. But new coach Bret Bielema informed Cogswell he no longer has a scholarship offer from the Razorbacks. The Hogs were going to sign only one quarterback in the 2013 class, and it wasn't going to be him. He had offers from Nebraska and Hawaii at the time of his commitment to Arkansas, but is not sure if those offers still stand. It's been a rough recruitment for three star quarterback Tyler Cogswell. On January 27<sup>th</sup>, Cogswell committed to Cincinnati, ending a recruiting saga. Cogswell credited the academics and the city as the major factors that led to his commitment to Tommy Tuberville's program. He will likely sit out a year, as the Bearcats return quarterback Munchie Legaux for his senior season.

It was a very special Christmas for Kelly Cogswell, 6, (See December Courier) and her family. Kelly and the family needed a handicapped van. A reader knew someone with a 1993 Dodge Voyager with low mileage and an electric wheelchair lift. The family who owned it couldn't use it anymore, and they wanted to be sure it went to someone who needed it. The van now has a new home in the Cogswells' driveway, and it's already been used to take Kelly to a "Lunch with Santa" at her school. Three separate readers sent checks for the family, wishing them well and hoping to ease the financial burden just a little bit. The Cogswells put the money to good use, including settling a debt with Kelly's pharmacy and paying a mechanic to inspect and tune-up the van.



Connor Cogswell presented "South American Adventures" at the Query Club meeting at 7:30 p.m., February 11<sup>th</sup>, at Sewickley (Ohio) Public Library.

Mt. Pleasant High School cheerleader Aubrey Cogswell, a freshman, was moved up to the varsity



team just one day before the districts on Saturday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The inexperienced Cogswell had the unenviable task of being a key component in whether Mt. Pleasant would advance out of districts, or have a disappointing end to its season. Cogswell and the rest of her competitive cheer teammates excelled together. The end result was a second-place finish with 731.84 points, plenty good enough to advance to next Saturday's regionals at Cedar Springs.

Olivia Cogswell was diagnosed as having stage IV T-cell leukemia two years ago. Now 8, she feels "just a little bit sorry" for her 6-year-old self, who was busy getting better while all of her friends were busy swimming at pool parties. Now in remission, she has more important things to worry about. "Like, writing my own songs and being an artist one day or a chef," she said. February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Cogswell celebrated her progress by kicking up her heels with more than 100 University of Virginia students at the 15<sup>th</sup> annual marathon dance-off to benefit the University of Virginia Children's Hospital. The event brought in more than \$54,000.00.



# This and That

## *Movie about Grant Cogswell*

Based on the book, *Zioncheck for President*, by Phil Campbell, *Grassroots* dramatizes the true story of Grant Cogswell, who ran for Seattle City Council. Unemployed music critic Grant Cogswell (played by Avatar's Joel David Moore) is passionate about the construction of a monorail to drag his local community into the 21st century and attract new business to the area. However, powerful councilor Richard McIver, a long-running incumbent, (played by Cedric the Entertainer), has his own priorities so Grant decides to run in the 2001 Seattle City Council election, and employs journalist Phil Campbell (Jason Biggs) to run his campaign. McIver has money and personal connections that should guarantee re-election, but Grant's determination and spirit are infectious, and he rallies a huge crowd of misfits and eccentrics behind him to pose a serious threat to McIver's rule. The movie was released on Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Grant Cogswell was reported in an earlier Courier (December, 2006) because he made the movie *Cthulhu*. He now runs a little English language bookshop in Mexico City.

## *A Cogswell in Baghdad*



In this image released by the Texas Army National Guard, New Embassy Complex mayor Maj. Bruce Whinery, 72<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team, gets a piece of the March birthday cake from Camp Prosperity mayor, Maj. Theresa Cogswell, 72<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team, during a short celebration for all Joint Area Support Group personnel who had birthdays during the month of March on Camp Prosperity, Baghdad, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010. (Photo by: 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Darryl Frost)

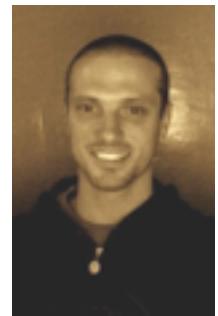
## *Business Started*

Marshfield, Mass., resident Earl Cogswell learned small engine repair at one of the South Shore's better known resources where he was employed for over two decades. He learned the importance of maintaining lawn and garden equipment, but also realized there was no easy and inexpensive way to arrange for that annual maintenance or occasional repair. Thus, he launched On Sight Repairs with a well stocked trailer outfitted with portable tools and a variety of commonly needed replacement parts. With less overhead, Cogswell charges 20 percent less than conventional repair centers. "Most lawn mower or small engine repairs take only a couple of hours, and you are ready to tackle your lawn or other task," commented Earl Cogswell. He added, "I'm told by customers that they were hamstrung because they didn't know someone who owned a truck to deliver it to a repair shop. The fact we also save them money is often secondary to the convenience factor of us coming to their home."

## *A Spanish Cogswell*



Omaro Cogswell, 34 years old, of Barcelona, Spain, studied at Joso School, Barcelona. He went back to the skateboard after almost 25 years. His studies, work and every day activities did not let him be in skateboarding as much as he liked, but that doesn't mean it wasn't always present in his heart. At nearly 35 years of age, in little more than one hour, Omaro recorded a clip, and showed part of what he feels inside.



## *More on Prof. Fred Cogswell*

<http://vre.lib.unb.ca/cogswell/> is a web site with a digital book about Prof. Fred Cogswell.

# Westbury, Wiltshire, News



Vicky Peacock, 29, started teaching pole dancing in 2007 after being invited to classes in Warminster, where she quickly realized the physical benefits from the activity. The Westbury pole dance teacher is celebrating winning the top award in the instructor category at the UK Professional Pole Championships, after being persuaded to enter by her students.

Dot Whitehead, who raised more than £1.7 million alongside volunteers for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance, died on New Year's Eve. Mrs. Whitehead, 81, started as manager of the Wiltshire Air Ambulance shop in Westbury, when it opened in the town in 1997. She ran the shop for 15 years, and was voted as Westbury's person of the year in 2011. Mrs. Whitehead was also invited to Buckingham Palace on two occasions as a result of her charity work. Prior to the air ambulance shop, Mrs. Whitehead also spent 21 years managing Westbury's Red Cross shop, bringing her years of volunteering in the town to over



36 years.



Viv Howse, of Westbury Leigh, received the independent opticians' annual award of Top Employee for 2012. Mrs. Howse has achieved two NVQ qualifications in Customer Service since joining Haine & Smith five years ago and, in the past year, has taken on the responsibility of managing the practice on Westbury High Street, with excellent results. Over 140 Haine & Smith employees from across the region were in the competition. The independent family group, established in 1975 by Sue Haine and Barry Smith, has 19 practices throughout Wiltshire and the surrounding area, carrying out about 40,000 eye examinations a year. She is shown with partner Keith Bottomley.

out about 40,000 eye examinations a year. She is shown with partner Keith Bottomley.



Exhibitionists of Wiltshire got together for a mass naked photo in the snow event on top of Westbury's White Horse. They came under the cover of darkness and whipped their kit off in the snow, and attempted to spell out the word "naked". Thousands of pounds were raised for Salisbury Hospital's Stars Appeal for better neo-natal care for premature babies. The week-long shenanigans started when Leanne Myers started a Facebook page called "Wiltshire, Let's Get Naked in the Snow", January 20<sup>th</sup>, with a cheeky picture of her neighbour and her

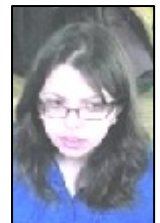


posing in the snow in just their undies. Within 48 hours, hundreds of people had posted their own pictures – WI Calendar Girls-style. Raising money for the neo-natal unit was a cause important to her, because in 2000 her daughter Ellie was six-and-a-half weeks premature, and was in the neo-natal intensive care unit for five weeks.

Will Jasper, who lives in Westbury, set out with his friend, Olly Gibb, from just outside New Delhi, India, on February 25<sup>th</sup>, to cycle 700 miles to Nepalese capital, Kathmandu, where they have volunteered to work for the Disabled New Life Centre. As well as the distance and the altitude, the pair will have to cope with severe cold, with temperatures in early spring dropping to minus ten degrees Celsius. Will is a qualified bike mechanic, and will be able to carry out running repairs.

Westbury Swimming Pool closed in November for seven weeks while essential maintenance was carried out, before reopening on January 7<sup>th</sup>. The pool was closed again March 4<sup>th</sup>, just weeks after it reopened because some of the work was not carried out satisfactorily, and needed to be redone.

Former Matravers student Charlotte Lawes is working as the research, monitoring and evaluation manager at a charity in Pune, India, called Equal Community Foundation. Set up in 2009, it is a human rights organization, which aims to empower men in India with the opportunity to end violence and discrimination against women. While Miss Lawes said that more people are talking about the issue of violence towards women now, she believes more needs to be done about the causes. "Ideally, we would be working in schools, but there can be a lot of opposition if you are seen to be challenging culture or religion." The 23-year-old is a graduate of Cambridge University at Pembroke College, where she read Social and Political Science, graduating in 2011,



Pupils at Matravers School in Westbury wowed audiences with their annual production "Back to the



80s." The production, which was rehearsed over six weeks, was performed at primary schools in the area before welcoming parents, guests and school friends to three consecutive evening shows. Drama and English teacher Rebecca Walker, who directed the show, said: "It was pretty hectic, but was well worth the stress. It was a brilliant show, and I was so proud of all involved. All the shows were superb, and the audience was full with glow sticks, clapping and dancing along to the tunes."

## *From the Secretary's Desk*

Hi, everyone:

I hope 2013 finds you and your family healthy and happy! The dues notices for 2013 have been mailed out, and about half of you have returned your dues for this year. Thank you. In this mailing, I also included an order form for Don Cogswell's updated Cogswell family history book. We have 41 of these books still available if you are interested. You have probably also heard that we are holding another CFA Reunion this year. We haven't had a reunion for quite a while, so I am really looking forward to this one and the chance to meet some of you there! This year, we will be holding this reunion in Cleveland, Ohio, as the Cogswell Hall is there, and this area has its own Cogswell history that most of us don't know. We'll be able to spend some time at the Cogswell Hall, and we'll have a local speaker from the area to talk about Cogswell history there in Cleveland. In addition to our reunion, there is also Cleveland Indian baseball (and yes, they are in town during the reunion), the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, the NFL Hall of Fame is a short drive from there and other activities. I'd encourage all of you to think about attending. This should be a lot of fun. Any questions, feel free to email me or give me a call at (206) 276-1302.



Ed Cogswell  
Secretary, Cogswell Family Association

## *Welcome to New Member*

William G. Kelly Castro Valley CA

## *Births*

Ines Cogswell-Cuevac, daughter of Stuart and Teresa Cogswell, born April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Cuenca, Spain

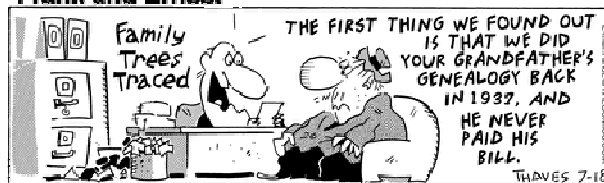
## *Engagements*

Melissa Guy to Tylor Cogswell, both of Montpelier, Ohio; wedding, scheduled for February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013 was not reported by February 25<sup>th</sup>.

## *Deaths*

CFA member Michael L. Williams, 61, died August 14<sup>th</sup> (?), 2011, Fountain Hills, Arizona  
Patricia Cogswell, 86, died Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Grays Harbor, Washington, widow of Daniel Cogswell  
Margaret Elizabeth Griffin Cogswell, 90, died October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Black Mountain, North Carolina  
Mary Cogswell Baum, 87, died Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Pasadena, California  
Darrel Wayne Cogswell, 69, died December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Medical Lake, Washington  
Sophia Cogswell died December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at Children's Hospital, Washington, D.C.  
Marvin Cogswell, 78, died December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Greeley, Colorado  
Mary Theresa Cogswell McNamara, 85, died January 2<sup>nd</sup>, Upper Lahave, Nova Scotia  
Patricia Ann Cogswell, 73, died January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013, Caldwell, Idaho  
Paul V. Cogswell, 82, died January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013, San Antonio, Texas  
Rebecca Cannon, 47, died January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013, High Point, N.C., wife of J. M. S. Cannon (DJC 11806)  
Bruce Cogswell, Sr., CFA Webmaster, 69, died January 21<sup>st</sup>, Elkhart, Indiana  
Ruth Frances (Chamberlain) Cogswell, 88, died January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Bellingham, Washington, widow of Charles Cogswell  
Ray Cogswell, 92, died January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Fredericton, New Brunswick  
Jay Paul Cogswell, 52, died February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Tamarac, Florida

## **Frank and Ernest**



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# *From the Editor's Desk*

## *About the Cover of this Issue*

Michael Cogswell is the main story in this Courier, and a picture of him is on the cover. That's Louis Armstrong with the trumpet, because Michael is the curator of the Louis Armstrong Archives/Museum.



## *When You Move*

Almost every issue of the Courier is sent out to all our members and usually several get returned. This time, there were four copies returned. One member had died over a year ago, but at least three issues were delivered – presumably to a family member. In one case, I was able to find a new address and re-mail it. But in the two other cases, I had no way to find it. Sometimes, the post office will indicate “forward time expired” and give me the address to which it would have been forwarded, but that didn’t happen with any this time. **WHEN YOU MOVE, PLEASE TELL US!!!!!!** Every Courier that is returned costs us \$1.42 plus 21¢ tax, plus the cost of re-mailing (\$2.10 + 32¢ tax) for a total of \$4.05 extra to get your Courier to you, compared to the \$1.10 (and no tax) it cost the first time.

## *Major Stories Needed*

The Courier usually features one major story, which is about three pages long. This issue contains the last such story I have on my computer. I have a couple of two page stories, which I may be able to lengthen – one of them at its present length because of material sent by a reader. It is my hope that others will send stories, particularly major stories, but all are welcome.

## *A Visit to All Saints' Church, Westbury*

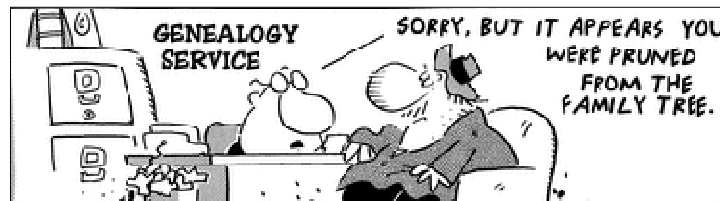
Marcena Pickett Waterman Love

In July, 1977, my husband and I rented a house for a month south of Bath, England, and took our three daughters, at that time, ages sixteen, thirteen and ten. Although I was not knowledgeable about our ancestry and genealogy, I did know that my family's house, Cogswell Tavern, had been in the family since it was built by Major William Cogswell in 1756, and that his ancestor, John Cogswell, came from Westbury Leigh.

I decided that we should see the church where he had been christened and see what we could learn. We drove to Westbury and found the Parish Church. How lucky we were that the elderly interim Rector was there and was interested in genealogy! He took us through a “rabbit warren” of a building to a few tiny rooms/large closets filled from floor to ceiling with shelves, with each shelf filled with long, thin and fragile books. In each book was listed the names of those christened and his or her **father**. (Our daughters were incensed that the **mother was not listed!**) It was still a thrill to see John Cogswell's name and the date of his christening in 1592!

The Parish Church was a lovely old church with two large brasses (covers of crypts), which had been moved to the walls. Large signs said “positively no brass rubbing.” (This is true of brasses all over England, as the rubbing of the brasses wears down the intricate work on the brass.) However, our new found friend, the interim Rector, gave us permission!

We bought the brass rubbing paper, tape and proper chalk and had a lovely day making our rubbings of the brasses of our ancestor's church. These now happily hang on the walls of our respective houses – wonderful memories of a very special day.





## Two Sebastian Cogswells

### Sebastian Cogswell, British Columbia, Canada

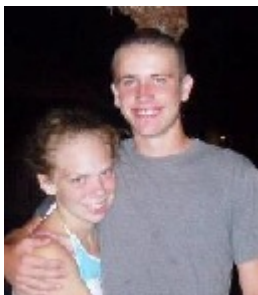


Sebastian Cogswell, age 33, attended Brookwood Secondary School, Langley, B.C., graduating in 1997. He has a B.Sc. in Honours Biophysics from the University of British Columbia and a M.Sc. in Physics from Simon Fraser University (Class of 2009), where his thesis was "An Experimental Model for MRI-detected Measurements of Oxygen Uptake in the Lungs." He is an expert at inter-disciplinary research and has worked on projects such as novel drug delivery systems for cancer treatment, lung imaging using CT and MRI and the thermodynamics of protein folding amongst others. Several engineering projects for custom scientific instruments have also benefited from his contributions. He was one of four inventors of "Liposomal Compositions for Parenteral Delivery of Agents," an invention owned and used by the B.C. Cancer Agency and the University Health Network. He is currently working at Eve Innovations ([www.eveinnovations.ca](http://www.eveinnovations.ca)) "Converting Waste Problems into Profitable, Green Energy Solutions" in Vancouver, B.C. He is very

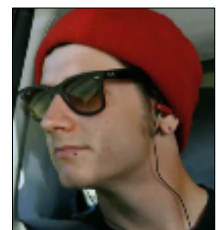
excited to be focusing his attention and abilities on researching renewable and efficient fuels with Eve Innovations.

Eve Innovations' patent pending process utilizes a wide variety of feedstock that is far more diverse than wood pellets and torrefication / char; agricultural wastes, including animal manure, straw from rice, wheat, corn, plant cuttings, bagasse, cassava, water hyacinth, milfoil, palm oil waste and rice husks; wood and wood waste, such as bark, forest cuttings, construction and demolition waste and municipal waste, such as construction material, food waste, fast food packaging, coated drinking cups, coffee grounds, yard waste, paper and cardboard packaging. The burn characteristics of the patented process also destroy all biological contaminants from the organic material used in the process. None of the contaminants will remain in the final product, making shipping and handling safe. The patented process can therefore process diseased waste (for example, animal carcasses with blue tongue or mad cow disease, or trees infected with the Mountain Pine Beetle) into a high quality fuel. Using this process thus converts an expensive disposal of infected waste into a profitable, green energy solution. The patented biofuel has an energy density equivalent to high quality coal (27-30 GJ/tonne). The patented biofuel burns clean and comparable to coal in heat /energy output and amounts of carbon dioxide emitted. The comparisons end there. Coal burning generates 6 to 15% ash; the biofuel generates less than 0.5%. Coal burning generates heavy metals, sulphur, nitrous oxides and creosol or tar deposits. The biofuel generates none of these harmful emissions.

### Sebastian Cogswell, Florida, USA



Another Sebastian Cogswell was a sophomore at Sunlake High School, Land O' Lakes, Florida, where he played Junior Varsity Boys Football. In one game the JV squad came in during the fourth quarter and kept up the beating. Sebastian Cogswell wanted in on the action, and he also ran back an interception for a touchdown making the score 57-7. Final score was 57-14. He previously attended Stewart Middle School, and was involved in stunt bicycle riding. Answering the question: "What is it that you like about being a boy?" Sebastian says,



"Being able to play tackle football." Sebastian Cogswell is now a high school junior student at Desoto County High School in Arcadia, Florida, and still plays football.

## Prescott F. Cogswell



A pioneer of unusual ability, and a statesman and public benefactor was P. F. Cogswell (*DJC* 6324), who came to El Monte in the eighteen eighties; and contributed much to the growth and upbuilding of the district. His name is remembered in connection with the early development of the English walnut industry there, as he was one of the pioneers in setting out walnut groves in this district, as well as in the organization of the first Walnut Growers Association. His services as a statesman were six years a member of the State Legislature and four years in the Senate. Mr. Cogswell also served for eight years as County Supervisor. While in the state legislature, he was closely associated with Governor Hiram Johnson, who was a fairly progressive governor. At his re-election, the Governor asked him to run for Lieutenant Governor with him; he declined. Later, when the current senator died, Johnson appointed himself to the Senate, and the then Lieutenant Governor moved up to the Governor's position.

Born October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1859, in Thamesford, Ontario, Canada, he was the son of Asa H. (*DJC* 4446) and Mary L. (Allen) Cogswell, natives of the state of Vermont and Canada, respectively. His grandfather was a farmer and part-time Methodist minister, moving to the United States and settling for a few years in Iowa. The family returned to Canada in 1872, where the parents lived until the late 1800's, when Asa and his wife followed Prescott F. to California, and they lived the rest of their lives in Los Angeles.

Prescott F. received his education in the public schools of his home community in Canada, and attended Albert University in Bellville, Ontario. In 1883, he came to California, and at Tustin purchased a twenty-acre tract of land, which he improved and set to grapes. Here, save for a short trip back to Canada in 1885, he remained until 1888, when he removed to El Monte.

Soon after his arrival in El Monte, he entered a partnership with B. F. Maxson, R. H. Gilman and O. H. Ferris, and purchased the old McLain estate comprised of 480 acres just east of El Monte. Two hundred acres they set to walnuts, and sub-divided into ten-acre tracts, which they sold during the first two years. In 1890, the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Cogswell retaining about one hundred acres of the partnership tract. This he improved, and continued to develop for a time, later acquiring an adjoining one hundred acres, all of which, except for thirty acres, he set to walnuts and sold in small tracts. Mr. Cogswell was among the first farmers of the district to develop farming by irrigation; he drilled a well, which furnished enough water for his two hundred acres.

In 1885, Mr. Cogswell was married to Miss Jane Belcher, born in Calcutta, India, her parents being Reverend S. and Jane Belcher, natives of England and, at the time, missionaries in India. To them were born three children, namely: Frederick A., of Rosemead; Harold G. of Torrance and Irene (Mrs. C.H. Ward) of Strathmore, California. The mother died in 1898. In later years, Mr. Cogswell, while not so active in his work as in former years, preferred not to be termed as "retired", as he was still active in managing his properties. He continued to reside in his home at 751 Cogswell Road, which he built after 1886 on his original tract.

In 1925, he was married to Isabel Adams, who was born after his first wife died, in Toronto, Canada; her parents being Edward and Isabel Adams, who also were Canadians. Mrs. Cogswell was a graduate of Manitoba University and also Columbia University of New York, and became prominent in the social life of El Monte. To this union were born two children, CFA member Prescott E. and Horatio A. Mr. Cogswell was a Mason, and in religion a Presbyterian. Politically, he was a Republican. He was influential and spent much time and energy in matters of local public improvement. He also organized a high school for El Monte so his children could receive a college preparatory education, and was a member of the first Board of Trustees of the El Monte Union High School, serving on same for fifteen years. He also served for sixteen years on the Board of Trustees of the University of Southern California. For eight years, he acted as a member of the State Land Settlement Board (a Federal Colonization organization). He was one of the organizers of the First National Bank of El Monte, and was Vice-President of the Board of Directors of that institution.

Mr. Cogswell related an interesting incident, which occurred while he was assisting in interesting financial men in the organization in 1903 of the first National Bank.

I. W. Hellman, well known California financier and, at the time, President of the Wells Fargo – Nevada Bank of San Francisco was interviewed by Mr. Cogswell with the view of getting him to take some stock and lend his support to the new organization. Mr. Hellman had lived for a time in the vicinity of El Monte, and presumed to know its resources and probable future. Mr. Hellman threw up his hands, and declared that if he joined the organization, he would have to pay out of his own pocket the running expenses of the bank for the first twenty years. However, the interview ended with an agreement, and Mr. Hellman took some stock in the organization. Mr. Hellman received at the end of the first year a statement to the effect that the bank had earned an eight per cent dividend in addition to a reserve fund.

Prescott Cogswell died in 1960 at over one hundred years of age, having outlived both wives.

## Murder/Suicide

### *(The Dark Side of the Family History)*

On May 5<sup>th</sup> (1879), Egbert Cogswell, of New Preston Hill, Connecticut, took his double barreled shotgun, and discharged both barrels into his wife, Jennie's, head.

When Egbert Cogswell shot his wife, it is believed that the first shot went through the top of her head, tearing her scalp, stunning her so that she fell, and the second shot into the side of her head, killing her. Mr. Cogswell then returned the shotgun to its usual place in another room. He then went to the pantry and got a butcher knife, returned to the kitchen where his wife's body lay and slashed his own throat. He made two gashes on the left side and one on the right, which almost severed his head from his body. He fell in such a way that her hair and part of her clothing was drenched in his blood. According to the newspaper, he was 48 years old and his wife was 38. (Other accounts make him 49 and his wife 36, but newspapers often get ages a year or two out.)

According to their thirteen year old son, Arthur, (and the neighbors) the previous fall, Mr. Cogswell had put fifteen barrels of cider into his cellar, of which only two remained at the time of his death. He had hardly seen a sober day between the two events. His wife had from time to time tried to stop his drinking (on one occasion by putting salt in his cider – which only exasperated him, and caused him to drink more). Domestic peace was unknown in the family that winter. Family quarrels were common. On Monday morning, May 5<sup>th</sup>, they had a few words at the breakfast table, and Mr. Cogswell started to choke his wife, but was pulled away by Arthur. Arthur then went to a workshop, but hearing the gunshots, he rushed back to the kitchen. "What's going on here?" he asked, and his father replied, "Murder." Arthur left to call the neighbors. When he returned with them, they discovered that Egbert had killed not only his wife but himself.

A coroner's jury was hastily assembled to view the bodies, which they did about 9 a.m. that morning. They came to the conclusion that it was a murder/suicide. Among the jurors was a Cogswell descendant, Charles W. Pickett (*DJC* 4654).

The event was recorded in a Sullivan County, Pennsylvania, newspaper.

*Descendants of John Cogswell* lists an Egbert Cogswell (# 4312), son of Charles and Asenath (Hubbard) Cogswell, born January 25<sup>th</sup>, 1830. The date of his death is May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1879. He had a son, Arthur, who was born February 18<sup>th</sup>, 1866, so he would have been the right age. There was an older son, Frederick, but he was age 20 and attending the Connecticut Literary Institute, so would not have been there at the time. A daughter, Sarah, born in 1862, had lived less than two months. The family lived in Washington, Connecticut. However, his wife was Mary Eliza (Hull)



Cogswell, not Jennie, and she died March 7<sup>th</sup>, 1868. No second marriage is given, but in light of the preceding story, it seems probable. The United States Census, 1870, for Connecticut, lists the household of Egbert Cogswell, age 40, farm labor, as including Jennie Cogswell, age 27, Frederick Cogswell, age 11 and Arthur G Cogswell age 4.

Egbert Cogswell was buried in New Preston Village Cemetery, New Preston, Litchfield County, Connecticut, as is Mary Eliza Cogswell. However, Jennie's name is not listed in that cemetery, neither as Cogswell nor with any other surname.

### *Problem*

Three men go into a motel. The man behind the desk said the room is \$30.00, so each man paid \$10.00 and went to the room. A while later the man behind the desk realized the room was only \$25.00, so he sent the bellboy to the three guys' room with \$5.00. On the way, the bellboy couldn't figure out how to split \$5.00 evenly between three men, so he gave each man \$1.00. and kept the other \$2.00 for himself. This meant that the three men each paid \$9.00 for the room, which is a total of \$27.00; add the \$2.00 that the bellboy kept = \$29.00. WHERE IS THE OTHER DOLLAR?

**Cogswell Family Association**  
 Incorporated Massachusetts, February 17, 1989  
 Founder & First President - Cyril Gray Cogswell

**Officers**

 <b>Pat Cogswell</b> 5092 Golden Road Sebring FL 33875-6099 <b>President Emeritus</b> patscogswell@gmail.com (863) 471-2735	 <b>Howard Cogswell</b> 1051 Orangewood R St Johns. FL 32259-3160 <b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b> hpcogs@comcast.net, (904) 287-9404	 <b>Malcolm Cogswell</b> 66 North Main St Sutton, QC. J0E 2K0 CANADA <b>Editor and Chaplain</b> malcolmcogswell@hotmail.com (450) 538-0295
 <b>Roger W. Bohn</b> 28 Ross St. Batavia, NY 14020 <b>President</b> rbohn49@gmail.com (585) 344-1790	 <b>Edward R. Cogswell</b> 21321 107th Ave SE Snohomish, WA 98296-7140 <b>Secretary</b> ercogswell@wavecable.com (360) 668-8100	 <b>Eloise K Gassert</b> 618 Fourth Ave. Lady Lake, FL 32159 <b>Historian</b> meamaw24427@aol.com (352) 430-3071
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Web Master</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>VACANT</b></p>	 <b>Katie (Cogswell) Sanders</b> 38 Country Road Uxbridge, MA 01569 <b>Treasurer/Clerk</b> misc_sanders@charter.net (508) 278-9889	 <b>Connor M. Cogswell</b> 213 Mitchell Lane Sewickley, PA 15143 <b>Legal Counsel</b> concogs@earthlink.net (412) 741-1657

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Prescott Cogswell, San Clemente, CA, prescogswell@cox.net**

**Directors as of April 1, 2013**

<b>Directors 2011-2013</b>	<b>Directors 2012-2014</b>	<b>Directors 2013-2015</b>
<b>Roger W. Bohn</b> 28 Ross St. Batavia, NY 14020 rbohn49@gmail.com	<b>Eloise K. (Elli) Gassert</b> 618 Fourth Ave. Lady Lakes, FL 32159 memaw24427@aol.com	<b>John H. (Jack) Cogswell</b> 1479 Great Plain Avenue Needham, MA 02492-1217 j.cogswell@verizon.net
<b>Edward R Cogswell, Jr.</b> 21321 107 <sup>th</sup> Ave. SE Snohomish WA 98290 ercogswell@wavecable.com	<b>Virginia E. Bohn</b> 205 Union Street Schenectady, NY 12305-1405 ginbohn@yahoo.com	<b>Prescott Cogswell</b> 304 Poco Paseo San Clemente CA 92672 prescogswell@cox.net
<b>Tim Sanders</b> 38 Country Road Uxbridge, MA 01569 misc_sanders@charter.net	<b>Matthew Cogswell</b> 1307 SW 25TH Street Cape Coral, FL 33914 foam2005@aol.com	<b>Edmond Cogswell</b> 2556 Fox Circle Walnut Creek, CA 94596 ecogswell2@att.net
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>VACANT</b></p>	<b>Caroline Welling VanDeusen</b> 1182 Parkway Drive Columbus, OH 43212 lincolnfriends@gmail.com	<b>Denis L. Cogswell</b> 8914 Puerto Del Rio Dr, - Unit 501 Cape Canaveral, FL dlcogswell@pobox.com

*Cogswell Family Association*  
 “Descendants of John Cogswell” Order Form

Complete the appropriate fields (please print) and mail to address below

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	CFA Members	1 <sup>st</sup> copy: \$55.00		
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Cogswell Family Association  
Editor Malcolm Cogswell  
66 North Main Street  
Sutton, QC Canada J0E 2K0

First Class

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